

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 02952 090929Z

50

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-10 /100 W

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R 090830Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3004

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 2952

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB

SUBJ: DEVAN NAIR COMMENTS ON PROTECTIONISM AND HIS CANDIDACY
FOR THE ICFTU/ARO PRESIDENCY

1. STRAITS TIMES REPORT JULY 6 CITED RELIABLE SOURCES AS STATING
THAT A MAJORITY OF THE REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING THE ICFTU/
ARO EXECUTIVE BOARD ANNUAL MEETING IN BANGKOK (JULY 7-10)
FAVOR THE ELECTION OF SINGAPORE NTUC SECRETARY GENERAL DEVAN
NAIR AS ARO PRESIDENT.

2. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE BANGKOK MEETING, NAIR,
CURRENTLY VICE PRESIDENT OF ARO, STATED IN STRAITS TIMES IN-
TERVIEW THAT "WHETHER OR NOT I ACCEPT THE PRESIDENCY OF
THE ARO WILL DEPEND ON THE CONCRETE PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES
TO WHICH IT COMMITS ITSELF.

"THERE MUST BE A STOP TO ALL THE CONFERENCING AND SEMINARING WHICH
GOES ON WITHOUT ANY RESULTS.

"BUT IF ASIAN TRADE UNIONS COMMIT THEMSELVES TO THE PRIORITIES
OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, JOB CREATION EFFORTS IN DEVELOPING
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PAGE 02 SINGAP 02952 090929Z

SOCIETIES AND TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE RURAL POOR, THEN

I MIGHT ACCEPT THE PRESIDENCY."

3. NAIR ALSO SAID THAT HIS RECENT TALKS WITH WEST EUROPEAN LABOR LEADERS RESULTED IN THE ELIMINATION OF "ALL PROTECTIONIST DRIVEL" FROM THE OFFICIAL ICFTU STATEMENT ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORAA-TIONS. HE NOTED THAT "WEST GERMAN AND SCANDINAVIAN TRADE UNIONS PROVED TO BE THE MOST HELPFUL AND RESPONSIVE. AMERICAN LEADERS CONTINUE TO BE OBDURATE WHILE THE BRITISH TUC PRETENDS TO BE DIPLOMATICALLY NEUTRAL WHEN THE TRUTH IS THAT THEY ARE SECRETLY PROTECTIONIST."
GRANT

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